

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7058
By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Right Reverend Bertram Nelson Herlong, D.D. on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those venerable members of the clergy, who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, have enriched the lives of the people of their respective communities and who have distinguished themselves as religious leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the Right Reverend Bertram Nelson Herlong is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirteen years as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee; his life and ministry affirm his commitment to the principles of faith, perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, born the child of a public school teacher and an independent businessman, Bertram Nelson Herlong grew up in a small north Florida town; he attended public schools there and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1956; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to further his own knowledge so that he might better serve in the Kingdom, he obtained three degrees from the University of the South: Master of Divinity, 1959, Master of Sacred Theology, 1970, and Doctor of Divinity, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong began his ministry as the founding Vicar of a new congregation in the Florida panhandle; through the years he has served as Cathedral Canon, Chaplain of a high school, Vicar of Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, and Dean of a cathedral in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, renowned as a religious leader of the greatest ability, his ecclesiastical activities have ranged from teaching at the School of Theology to being a Trustee of the Chinatown Mission in New York. Bishop Herlong has presided as Chairman over inter-parish councils, boards of directors of foundations, bookshops, social service agencies, and senior

housing projects; he has been also served the National Church with the Association of Episcopal Church Colleges, national housing programs, interim bodies of the General Convention, and has been elected several times to be a deputy to the General Convention; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure with the Episcopal Church, Bishop Herlong has also distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community. He served on the Board of Directors of the New York Board of Trade and as a founding member of a hospice at the Beekman Downtown Hospital in Manhattan; he led the development of five senior citizen housing projects, founded two schools, and served as President of the local Citizens District Council and a social welfare agency; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong is blessed with a great and loving heart for God's work and a magnetic personality; he has received the Michigan Religious Leader Award, the Booker T. Washington Brotherhood Award, and a Resolution of Gratitude from the Legislature of Michigan for outstanding service to the State; he was a founder of the Family Assistance Service Trust, and has served as a board member of the Orchestra Place Development Corporation, the University Cultural Center Association, and the Detroit Festival of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 1993, he was consecrated Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, and now serves as a Trustee of the University of the South and is an Episcopal Visitor for the Sisters of St. Mary; he is also a board member of St. Andrews-Sewanee School, St. Mary's Conference Center, Dubose Conference Center, and St. Luke's Community House; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong has shared his vast experience and compassion within the community while serving as a member of Tying Nashville Together, the Covenant Group, and the Nashville Rotary; and

WHEREAS, the Episcopal Diocese has benefited from Bishop Herlong's wisdom and love in innumerable ways for the past thirteen years, particularly from his service as founder and a past President of the Center for Ministry in Small Churches. During his episcopate, the diocese has been restructured, seven new congregations have been founded, and initiatives were launched in Evangelism, Stewardship, and Spiritual Development. Membership in the

diocese has grown by more than thirty percent, and financial support of congregations has increased by ninety-five percent; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong is strongly committed to the highest ideals of family values; he is most grateful for the tremendous love and companionship that he shares with his beloved wife, the former Barbara Ann Vickers; together, the Herlongs are the proud parents of two daughters, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong's outstanding career as a dynamic and compassionate religious leader and an active civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on God's grace, his dedication to the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Herlong will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Bishop Herlong has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his flock alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to the Right Reverend Bertram Nelson Herlong, D.D. our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, and thank him for his unwavering dedication to God, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, and his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.